



US Army Corps
of Engineers

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

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JOINT PARTNERING SESSION - REAL ESTATE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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Mission

Assure that all USACE facilities and associated lands (including outgrants) meet environmental standards contained in relevant Federal, state and local laws and regulations.

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Foundation

- Comprehensive Environmental Compliance Assessments
- Network of Environmental Compliance Coordinators
- Responsibility and Accountability at the Facility Level

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Environmental Compliance Coordinator Network (ECC NETWORK)

- Each Division, District, Project & Laboratory
- ECC's administer the program at the field level
- ECC's coordinate with other Corps elements

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Environmental Compliance Assessments

- The acronym, ERGO, has become synonymous with the assessment process
- ERGO is the Environmental Review Guide for Operations. Corps specific tool used to conduct environmental compliance assessments
- Other tools used to conduct assessments are the TEAM Guide & State Supplements

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Environmental Compliance Assessments

- Five year Cycle
 - External every five years
 - Internal every year except year for external
- Cycle I Completed FY 94
- Cycle II Completed FY 99
- Cycle III Program Underway (FY 00 - 04)

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Environmental Compliance Assessments Outgrants

- Seek to conduct assessments CONCURRENT with Real Estate compliance inspections to limit impact on leasee (When not possible RE representative requested to participate)
- ER 200-2-3 requires that external assessments be conducted at Major outgrants
- Districts decide if internal assessments of outgrants are needed
- Correction of deficiencies on Outgrants is the responsibility of outgrantee/leasee

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Environmental Compliance Assessments Outgrants

- Inconsistency exist both in completion of assessments at outgrants & follow-up on deficiencies
- Proposed - SOP to formalize responsibilities in conducting environmental compliance assessments & follow-up actions
- EIG report cited need to improve outgrant environmental compliance

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Proposed SOP For Outgrant Assessments

- Procedures for conducting External assessments
- Annually develop schedule/list of Outgrants to be assessed
- Notification to outgrants of assessment
 - request to attend
 - pre-visit questionnaire
- Reporting Findings to outgrants
 - verbally - exit briefing
 - written
- Corrective Action Follow-up
- OMBIL data entry

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Budget

- No separate environmental Appropriation/Fund
- No separate HTRW clean-up fund
- Environmental compliance projects are included in the Operations and Maintenance budget, compete for resources with other projects

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What's New?

- Environmental Operating Principles
- Environmental Management System - EMS - ISO 14001
- EOP #4 Cites the EC program as the example

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USACE Environmental Operating Principles

1. Strive to achieve Environmental Sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
4. **Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.**

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USACE Environmental Operating Principles

5. Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic & social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities; listen to them actively and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the Nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

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Principle #4: Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

- Focus on compliance with Nation's environmental laws and mandates in our mission execution
- Apply responsibility and accountability in all aspects of our work (administrative, technical, scientific, managerial) and ensure everything we do meets or exceeds legal requirements
- Responsibility and Accountability mean:
 - Understanding importance of achieving sustainability
 - Setting expectations for changes in individual and corporate behavior
 - Setting clear objectives for every project and activity, and
 - Providing sound indicators to report achievements

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Principle #4 Example

- Environmental Compliance at Projects, Labs, Centers and Facilities
 - Environmental Compliance Coordinator Network assures all USACE-operated facilities meet relevant environmental laws/regulations
 - Requires annual assessments of facilities
 - Operations managers responsible/accountable for compliance, correcting deficiencies, reporting results
 - Integrated into day-to-day operations - employees take pride in going beyond required standards

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Summary

- Integrated Compliance Program
- Bottom to Top ECC Network in Place
- Compliance Assessments at all Projects

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Questions

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